

Status as at October 2001

Previous updates are archived on this site.

AFTER has Intervenor Status in the landmark Monsanto court case dealing with surplus distribution from pension plans. A three judge panel heard arguments over 3 days in October, 2000 and their unanimous 3 - 0 decision was issued March 19, 2001 in our favour. Scotiabank and the "other side" appealed that decision and, recently, legal arguments were filed by all concerned parties. The case is now scheduled to go to Court on April 29th & 30th, 2002. The Court location is scheduled to be Osgoode Hall in Toronto (to be confirmed and posted on this site), observers are allowed and AFTER members are urged to attend.

In a new matter, the Ontario Minister of Finance has announced the government is considering amendments to the Ontario Pension Benefits Act specifically regarding distribution of surplus. We are very concerned because we believe self-serving corporate interests are behind this new initiative. The Ministry issued a discussion paper and solicited briefs by September 14, 2001. We submitted a Brief on AFTER's behalf before the deadline.

A September 27, 2001 Toronto Star article covered this pension surplus issue and includes input by AFTER (Bob Smallhorn) and **Koskie Minsky** (Mark Zigler, our lawyer).

Another mass-mailed 1st time letter was sent out to many former NTC employees not previously on our database. The additional names were accumulated through much effort by a number of volunteers, whom we sincerely thank.

We believe we now have most of the names of former employees who were on staff when Scotiabank took over National Trust ... **BUT, WE ARE STILL SEARCHING FOR PENSIONERS, so please help us out here by providing us their names, addresses and phone numbers** even if it's only one pensioner at a time.

Recently, we made a second request for financial support. The response has been very positive but could be improved upon. It was particularly encouraging to see a significant number of supporters sending in more than we suggested, as high as \$500. This demonstrates the commitment of our supporters. If you haven't yet responded to our request, please take time to do so now.

In our last general mailing, we asked supporters to write to: (1) their Members of Parliament, (2) national and local community newspapers, and (3) Scotiabank executives, telling our story in your own words. We have been copied with a number of those letters and have posted several on the website in case you need ideas for the letters you are planning to write. One of our members even made the effort to write to all former National Trust directors. They were at the NT helm when Scotiabank bought the company and they did not ensure staff and pensioners were fairly and equitably taken care of, an important responsibility of theirs.